

**T. P. RAMAKRISHNAN**



**MINISTER FOR LABOUR, SKILLS & EXCISE  
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA**

**Do. No.116/VIP/M(L&E)/2020**

**08..09..2020**

**Dear Shri. Ravi Sankar Prasadji,**

I would like to invite your kind attention to the relevant concern regarding the issues of contract workers in BSNL. The BSNL has issued a directive to all its units to curtail expenditure on contract works which is likely to result in retrenchment of around 20,000 more workers engaged with the telecom industry through outsourcing and contractors. Earlier 30,000 contractual workers have already been retrenched under the company's retrenchment policy and added that all such workers remained unpaid for more than a year.

The financial condition of the company has deteriorated after implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and the faults in the networks have increased due to shortage of manpower in various cities. BSNL is unable to pay salary to the employees on due date even after VRS and 13 contract workers have allegedly committed suicide due to non-payment of wages for the past 14 months.

BSNL issued an order on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 with the permission of its human resource director asking all the Chief General Managers to take immediate steps to curtail the expenditure on contract works and reduce engagement of labours through contractors. The order said the CMD has desired that "with the implementation of cluster based approach in most of the circles, there is no justification for housekeeping labourers and other contractual staff such as security etc".

According to the order, the CMD has desired that each circle of BSNL should "draw a clear road map for non-engagement of contract labours immediately".

Due to the retrenchment process around 30,000 labourers have been sent home and 20,000 more will be impacted.

After the implementation of the VRS-2019, through which 79,000 employees have been sent home, the necessity to continue with the existing contract workers became even more compulsory. However, BSNL have decided to retrench thousands of contract workers, which have only helped to worsen the maintenance of our networks at the field level.

The quality of BSNL services has undoubtedly deteriorated due to reduction in workforce.

On behalf of the Government of Kerala, I would like to point out the grave concern of the State in the matter and request your kind intervention in settling the matter by upholding the legitimate demands of the workers and issue necessary directions to disburse the arrear salary to the contract workers and to discontinue the process of retrenchment.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely



**T .P. RAMAKRISHNAN**

**Shri. Ravi Sankar Prasad**

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